

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing ~~system~~ apparatus comprising:
a communication unit configured to communicate with an information processing
apparatus, the information processing apparatus configured to operate on image information;

a storage configured to store first image information which represents at least one
element; and

a controller configured to send second image information to the information
processing apparatus, said second image information represents the at least one element and
an amount of the second image information is smaller than an amount of the first image
information, wherein

the controller is further configured to acquire result information, the result
information being a result of an operation which is executed on the sent second image
information in the information processing apparatus, the result information includes
information with a z-order indicating an order of the at least one element in the second image
information, wherein the z-order indicates whether the at least one element is arranged nearer
or farther to a viewer of the second image information in a direction perpendicular to a
display screen;

the controller is further configured to edit the first image information, the first image
information is edited according to the acquired result information, so that if at least two
elements superimpose each other, a portion of the image information covered by any of the at
least two elements is not included by the edited first image information; and

the controller is further configured to send the edited first image information to the information processing apparatus for printing by a printing device provided at the information processing apparatus.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The image processing system ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 1, wherein the controller is further configured to execute at least one of a moving process, an enlargement process, a reduction process, and a deletion process on the at least one element during said editing of the first image information.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image processing system ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 1, wherein a network is configured to connect among the image processing apparatus, the information processing apparatus and other information processing apparatuses, and the controller is further configured to broadcast the first image information which is edited and composed to a plurality of desired information processing apparatuses of the information processing apparatus and the other information processing apparatuses.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The image processing system ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 4, wherein the network comprises a satellite communication network.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image processing system ~~apparatus~~ comprising:
a communication unit configured to communicate with an information processing apparatus configured to process first image information and second image information in association with each other, both of the first image information and the second image

information representing at least one element and an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information;

an image processor configured to receive the second image information from the information processing apparatus via the communication unit, configured to display the received second image information on a given display device, configured to receive an operation instruction for the displayed second image information, configured to process the displayed second image information according to the operation instruction, and configured to send result information representing the processed and displayed second image information to the information processing apparatus; and

an output controller configured to receive the first image information via the communication unit, the first image information being edited according to the result information on the information processing apparatus, and configured to cause a given printing device to print the received first image information, and

wherein when the operation instruction includes adding process for adding additional information to the displayed second image information, the image processor saves the additional information, and the output controller executes a superimpose process for the received first image information and the saved additional information and causes the given printing device to print a result of the superimpose process.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An image processing method applied to an image processing apparatus including a communication unit configured to communicate with an information processing apparatus and a storage configured to store first image information

which represents at least one element, the information processing apparatus configured to operate on image information, the method comprising:

sending second image information which represents the at least one element to the information processing apparatus, an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information;

acquiring result information, the result information being a result of an operation which is executed on the sent second image information in the information processing apparatus, wherein the result information includes information with a z-order indicating an order of the at least one element in the second image information in a direction perpendicular to a display screen, wherein the z-order indicates whether the at least one element is arranged nearer or farther to a viewer of the second image information;

editing the first image information according to the acquired result information, so that if at least two elements superimpose each other, a portion of the image information covered by any of the at least two elements is not included by the edited first image information; and

sending the edited first image information to the information processing apparatus for printing by a printing device provided at the information processing apparatus.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein the editing the first image information includes executing at least one of a moving process, an enlargement process, a reduction process, and a deletion process on the at least one element to edit the first image information.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An image processing method applied to an image processing apparatus including a communication unit for communicating with an information processing apparatus configured to process first image information and second image information in association with each other, both of the first information and the second image information representing at least one element and an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information; the method comprising:

receiving the second image information from the information processing apparatus via the communication unit;

displaying the received second image information on a given display device;

receiving an operation instruction for the displayed second image information;

processing the displayed second image information according to the operation instruction;

sending result information representing the processed and displayed second image information to the information processing apparatus;

receiving the first image information via the communication unit, the first image information being edited according to the result information on the information processing apparatus;

saving an additional information, if the operation instruction includes an adding process for the adding additional information to the displayed second image information;

executing a superimpose process for the received first image information and the saved additional information; and

causing a given printing device to print at least one of the received first image information or a result of the superimpose process.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): An image information distributing method applied to a network system including a first image processing apparatus and a second image processing apparatus, the first image processing apparatus and the second image processing apparatus being interconnected with each other, the first image processing apparatus configured to store first image information and second image information, both of the first image information and the second image information representing at least one element, an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information, the method comprising:

- sending the second image information to the second image processing apparatus from the first image processing apparatus;

- displaying the second image information on a given display device of the second image processing apparatus;

- receiving an operation instruction for the displayed second image information in the second image processing apparatus;

- processing the displayed second image information according to the operation instruction in the second image processing apparatus;

- sending result information representing the processed and displayed second image information to the first image processing apparatus from the second image processing apparatus, wherein when the operation instruction includes adding process for adding additional information to the displayed second image information, wherein the additional information is saved in the second image processing apparatus;

- editing the first image information, in the first image processing apparatus, according to the result information;

sending the edited first image information in a compressed format to the second image processing apparatus from the first image processing apparatus;

executing a superimpose process for the received first image information and the saved additional information in the second image processing apparatus; and

causing a given printing device of the second image processing apparatus to print a result of the superimpose process.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The image information distributing method according to claim 13, wherein the network system includes other image processing apparatuses, and the sending of the edited first image information includes broadcasting the first image information which is edited and composed to a plurality of desired information processing apparatuses of the second image processing apparatus and the other image processing apparatuses.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A storage medium including computer readable program code means embodied in the medium, the storage medium being applicable to a computer including a communication unit configured to communicate with an apparatus and a storage configured to store first image information which represents at least one element, the apparatus configured to operate on image information, the computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for sending second image information which represents the at least one element to the apparatus, an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information;

computer readable program code means for acquiring result information, the result information being a result of an operation which is executed on the sent second image

information in the apparatus, wherein the acquired result information includes information with a z-order indicating an order of the at least one element in the second image information, wherein the z-order indicates whether the at least one element is arranged nearer or farther to a viewer of the second image information in a direction perpendicular to a display screen;

computer readable program code means for editing the first image information according to the acquired result information, said first image information being edited according to the acquired result information so that when a plurality of elements superimpose each other, the portion of the image information covered by any of the plurality of elements is not included by the edited first image information; and

computer readable program code means for sending the edited first image information to the apparatus for printing by a printing device provided at the information processing apparatus.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A storage medium including computer readable program code means embodied in the medium, the storage medium being applicable to a computer including a communication unit for communicating with an apparatus configured to process first image information and second image information in association with each other, both of the first image information and the second image information representing at least one element, an amount of the second image information being smaller than an amount of the first image information, the computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for receiving the second image information from the apparatus via the communication unit;

computer readable program code means for displaying the received second image information on a given display device;

computer readable program code means for receiving an operation instruction for the displayed second image information;

computer readable program code means for processing the displayed second image information according to the operation instruction;

computer readable program code means for sending result information representing the processed and displayed second image information to the apparatus;

computer readable program code means for saving additional information when the operation instruction includes an adding process for adding the additional information to the displayed second image information;

computer readable program code means for receiving the first image information via the communication unit, the first image information being edited according to the result information on the apparatus;

computer readable program code means for executing a superimpose process for the received first image information and the saved additional information; and

computer readable program code means for causing a given printing device to print a result of the superimpose process.

Claims 17-21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The image processing system apparatus according to claim 21,
wherein the result information represents identification of the at least one elements and each location thereof.

Claim 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (Original): The image processing method according to claim 23, wherein the result information represents identification of the at least one elements and each location thereof.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The image processing system ~~apparatus~~ according to Claim 1,
wherein said first image is stored in a compressed format in the storage, and
wherein said first image is edited by the controller according to the result information in an intermediate process where the first image information stored in the storage is expanded.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The image processing method according to Claim 8,
wherein said first image is stored in a compressed format in the storage, and
wherein said first image is edited by the controller according to the acquired result information in an intermediate process where the first image information stored in the storage is expanded.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The image information distributing method according to Claim 13,
wherein the image processing apparatus is configured to store said first image in a compressed format, and

wherein said first image is edited in the first image processing apparatus, according to the acquired result information in an intermediate process in an intermediate process where the first image information stored in the storage is expanded.